

## SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

A BREEDING RECORD OF WHITE PELICANS *PELECANUS ONOCROTALUS* IN TANZANIA On 23 August 1981 a breeding colony of White Pelicans *Pelecanus onocrotalus* was found at the extreme southern end of Lake Natron in northern Tanzania. The colony was situated on two small islets of one or two hectares in extent, separated by a few hundred metres of water. The islets rose to about 10 m in height and were composed of hard soil or soft rock. The number of birds present was difficult to estimate as they were packed almost as closely as breeding penguins, and only one side of the islets was observed, but it was probably in the order of 10 000 individuals excluding those away feeding. The incubating birds occupied the higher part of the land.

The colony was surrounded by knee-deep water, and my companion, Mr Glyn Lewis of Arusha, only approached close enough to ascertain that eggs were present, as we had no wish to disturb the birds. Numerous footprints of jackals *Canis* sp. and *Hyaenas Crocuta crocuta* approached the water's edge, but fortunately turned back at that point. The birds were probably feeding in Lake Manyara, as the morning flight lines were in a southerly direction, and no birds were seen attempting to fish Lake Natron.

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OVERSUMMERING PINTAIL *ANAS ACUTA* IN NORTHERN TANZANIA The Pintail *Anas acuta* is a regular migrant to northern Tanzania from November to April. However, in August and October 1980, a male was seen in the Arusha National Park and in August 1981 three males were seen on 3rd and one on 30th, all birds frequenting the same small area on Big Momela Lake. On 3 August I was accompanied by Dr C.C.H. Elliott and it was noted that the birds were reluctant to fly; one which did lacked a number of primaries.

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RED-FOOTED FALCONS *FALCO VESPERTINUS* IN TSAVO WEST NATIONAL PARK On 20 March 1981 I was a passenger in a vehicle travelling through Tsavo West NP between Maktau and Taveta. Just before sunset, west of Maktau, I noticed at least 5 small falcons perched on roadside bushes. These birds were readily identifiable as female and immature *F. vespertinus* on the basis of their small size, rather slim appearance, the almost unmarked orange-buff underparts (adult females), the deep buff underparts with dark streaks (immatures) and the pale heads with rich buff crown, narrow dark moustachial stripe and dark colour below and beyond the eye (all ages). A short distance further on I saw a group of falcons flying over grassland near the road and closer observation revealed that there were many small falcons in the area, flying across the road in a general northerly direction. The light was by this time becoming poor, but I was able to identify most of the 30 birds which passed close to where I stood. Of these birds, at least 2 were Lesser Kestrels *F. naumanni* while at least 20 were *F. vespertinus*. Several of these were adult females with orange-buff underparts and underwing coverts; the others were young birds, having paler underparts with dark streaks, barred wings and tails, and the head pattern already described. One adult male flew directly overhead at close range, enabling me to see clearly its dark grey plumage with darker underwing coverts and its rufous thighs and undertail coverts. At least one bird could have been a subadult male but it was too far away to distinguish colours properly. As